

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2001  
12 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair  
Bob Workman, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Bernie Heier  
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Trish Owen, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Staff Meeting was called to order at 12 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 1, 2001**

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Stevens seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of November 1, 2001. Workman, Stevens, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None were stated.

**3 SPECIAL SESSION UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant**

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, reported on efforts to amend LB 1 (changes provisions relating to appropriations for state agencies) to eliminate reductions in Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes.

Campbell said she spoke to Senator Foley, a member of the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriation Committee, and said he indicated that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is willing to work out rates with nursing homes.

Kissel said the Governor's position is that this is an administrative issue and that "no one's going to be left in the lurch".

Campbell suggested that the County let the bill ride and try to seek redress from HHS before the start of the 2002 Legislative Session.

Kissel suggested that the County propose legislation in the 2002 Legislative Session that will exempt County owned, County run nursing homes.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **A. Letter from Patty Sutton Regarding Child Support**

Kelly Moore Guenzel Handlos, Clerk of the District Court, appeared and explained that her office erroneously applied Sutton's September child support payment (\$675) to another case. The individual that received the payment spent the money and was unable to immediately repay it. She said authorization was secured to apply funds from that individual's account, as they became available, towards the misapplied amount and said all but \$64 has been repaid to Sutton. Handlos said the matter was handled in accordance with office policy and the law (see Exhibit A).

In response to a question from Heier, Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, said Sutton could also have filed a tort claim against the County.

Stevens asked whether a reserve account could be set up in the Clerk of the District Court's budget to pay legitimate claims.

Handlos explained that the issue is moot, as the State of Nebraska is taking over child support collection. She said her office will cease receipting on December 21, 2001 and the State will take over on December 24, 2001. Handlos and members of her staff will be on hand December 21-25 to handle any problems that may arise.

### **4 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER - Georgia Glass, Personnel Director; Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney**

Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, presented a draft of *Filing an Internal Allegation of Discrimination or Racial/Ethnic or Sexual Harassment* (Exhibit B). She said this policy states that complaints are to be forwarded to the Affirmative Action Director for investigation.

Georgia Glass, Personnel Director, said there had been concern that county elected officials might oppose having the City Affirmative Action Officer investigate discrimination complaints and make recommendations with regard to their departments. She said the policy directs that:

*Upon completion of the investigation, the Affirmative Action Director will submit to the Personnel Director a written report which includes the allegations, a summary of the evidence gathered during the investigation, and any findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations resulting from the investigation. The Personnel Director will review the report and take or facilitate any further action that is appropriate.*

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Heier seconded to authorize Joyce Quinn, City Affirmative Action Officer, to investigate allegations of harassment or discrimination on behalf of the County. Workman, Heier, Stevens and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Staab reported that Quinn is also in the process of developing an Affirmative Action Plan, pursuant to the contract.

The Board requested that Quinn give a presentation on the issue of affirmative action at a Management Team Meeting.

## **5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **A. Letter from Patty Sutton Regarding Child Support**

Item moved forward on the agenda.

### **B. Ballot Language for County Assessor and Register of Deeds**

Eagan said Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney, has recommended that the office be listed as Consolidated Office of Assessor and Register of Deeds on the election ballot.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Stevens seconded to accept the recommendation of the County Attorney's Office and list the office as Consolidated Office of Assessor and Register of Deeds on the election ballot. Heier, Stevens, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

### **C. Questionable Payment Vouchers from County Extension and Juvenile Court**

The Chair noted that a questionable claim had been received from Lancaster Manor, not County Extension.

Johnson said Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator, has asked that the request for reimbursement for food purchased for a staff appreciation event be withdrawn.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Stevens seconded to allow the claims to be withdrawn. Heier, Stevens, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Johnson said Juvenile Court Judge Toni Thorson has asked that the request to pay witness fees to two State employees be withdrawn.

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Stevens seconded to allow the claim to be withdrawn. Heier, Stevens, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

The Board asked Eagan and Johnson to work with the County Clerk's Office in drafting a policy to handle withdrawal of claims.

## **6 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

### **A. Monthly Meeting with Mayor Wesely - Campbell, Workman**

Campbell said the following items were discussed:

- Task Force on the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle
- Additional funding for economic development efforts
- Proposal to have a new Veterans Home built in Lincoln, rather than Omaha
- Redevelopment plan for the Old Federal Building
- InterLinc website
- Security in the County-City Building
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### **B. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Campbell**

Campbell said the Mayor has decided to hold funding of a number of park projects.

### **C. Joint Budget Committee - Campbell, Stevens**

Stevens said the United Way of Lincoln-Lancaster County and Joint Budget Committee are reviewing the types of agencies that are being funded.

Hudkins arrived at the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

### **D. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Board Meeting - Workman**

Workman reported that there are three finalists remaining for the position of NACO Executive Director.

E. Parking Committee - Campbell

Campbell said the Parking Committee handled individual requests.

F. Ecological Advisory Committee - Heier

Heier said the Planning Department shared information on the Comprehensive Plan and the Greenprint Challenge concept was discussed.

G. Railroad Transportation Safety District - Hudkins, Stevens, Workman

Hudkins reported the following:

- O 3rd and "A" Street project is progressing
- O Railroad tracks were removed on 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Stevens reported that the Union Pacific Railroad is abandoning 16 railroad crossings on the Jamaica line and said that may have given the County some leverage to negotiate a crossing on Northwest 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Wildrose Lane.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Lincoln Action Program's Phoenix Award
- B. Tri-County Retreat Agenda

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Hudkins, Heier, Stevens, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

- A. Lincoln Action Program's Phoenix Award

Stevens reported on the reception that was held to recognize recipients of the Phoenix Award.

- B. Tri-County Retreat Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda for the Tri-County Retreat that will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 8, 2001 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Thompson Alumni Center in Omaha, Nebraska (Exhibit C).

**7 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 p.m. Heier, Hudkins, Workman, Stevens and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

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Bruce Medcalf  
County Clerk